

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**APPLICANT: ERNST FUCHS**

**ART UNIT: 3775**

**SERIAL NO.: 10/519,772**

**EXAMINER: JAMES L. SWIGER, III**

**FILED: DECEMBER 24, 2004**

**CONFIRMATION NO.: 6953**

**TITLE: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT**

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop RCE  
Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In reply to the final Office Action, dated December 10, 2008 (*Request for Continued Examination* ("RCE"), pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114; *Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time*, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a); and total requisite fees of \$960.00 (small entity) being currently remitted via EFT), please amend the above-identified patent application as indicated on the following pages: